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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,848	08/21/2003	Gert-Ove WAHLSTROM	07589.0127.PCUS00	1847
28694	7590	01/18/2005	EXAMINER	
TRACY W. DRUCE, ESQ. NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG LLP 1615 L STREET NW SUITE 850 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			SAN MARTIN, EDGARDO	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2837

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	WAHLSTROM ET AL.	
10/604,848	Examiner	Art Unit
	Edgardo San Martin	2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 4, 6, 7 and 9 – 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okawa et al. (JP 02173313).

With respect to claims 1 and 9 - 11, Okawa et al. teach an apparatus for damping resonance in a conduit (Fig.3) for transporting exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine, which conduit is provided with at least one perforation (Fig.3, Item 4) located at a distance from the outlet end (Fig.3, Item 2) of the conduit and at a point (Fig.3, Item 5) in the conduit with a comparatively lower static pressure than downstream therefrom, the perforation forming an acoustic connection between the interior of the conduit and the surrounding atmosphere (Fig.3). The Examiner considers that the subject matter described by claims 9 – 11 is inherently taught by the structure described in claim 1, it is just the description of how the structure of claim 1 works, based on the Venturi effect.

With respect to claims 2 and 3, Okawa et al. teach wherein the lower static pressure in the vicinity of the perforation is brought about by means of a reduction in the cross section of the conduit (Fig.3, Item 5); and wherein the reduction in the cross section of the conduit is designed as a venturi (Fig.3).

With respect to claim 4, Okawa et al. teach wherein the reduction in the cross section of the conduit designed as a venturi is covered on the outside with a sound absorbing material (Fig.3, Item 3).

With respect to claims 6 and 7, Okawa et al. teach wherein the lower static pressure in the vicinity of the perforation is brought about by means of a change in direction of the gas flow in the conduit, and wherein the change in direction of the gas flow is brought about by means of a curve of the conduit (Fig.3), that is how the Venturi effect is created.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP 02173313) in view of Ciapetta et al. (US 3,471,265).

Okawa et al. teach the limitations discussed in a previous rejection, but fail to disclose wherein the sound-absorbing material is covered by a perforated plate.

Nevertheless, Ciapetta et al. teach a pipe portion designed as a venturi (Fig.3) being covered on the outside with a catalytic material (Fig.3, Item 58) covered by a perforated plate (Fig.3, Item 60).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the Ciapetta et al. perforated cover plate to cover the Okawa et al. sound absorbing material because the perforated cover plate would provide an exit for the exhaust gases that escape to the ambient through the perforations, in a low pressure stage of the engine, eliminating the creation of a high pressure environment that could further create a backpressure that could decrease the performance of the engine.

3. Claims 8 and 12 - 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP 02173313).

With respect to claim 8, Okawa et al. teach the limitations discussed in the previous rejections, but fail to disclose wherein the perforations are covered by means of a sound-permeable fabric on the inside or outside of the conduit.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the art of acoustics to employ a sound permeable fabric in acoustics applications that it is desired to let the sound flow freely while providing a protection against undesired presence of particles or materials, as it is used in speaker grills applications and sound absorbing materials with water resistance treatments.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to employ a sound permeable fabric covering because it would serve as a filter against undesired particles while permitting the free flow of the exhaust gas.

With respect to claims 12 – 17, Okawa et al. teach the limitations as described in the claims as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 – 4, 6 and 7.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on November 1, 2004, with respect to the rejections of claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Okawa et al. (JP 02173313) and Ciapetta et al. (US 3,471,265) as discussed above.

Conclusion

5. The attached hereto PTO Form 892 lists prior art made of record and not relied upon, the Examiner considered it pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edgardo San Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2837

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edgardo San Martín
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2837
Class 181
January 10, 2005